

BIENNOPHONE
26.2.–25.4.2021

COURONNE
KRONE

Presse Release

31 March 2021

Mirja Curtius, Marcel Freymond, Raphael Hefti, Jeanne Jacob, Florence Jung, Raphael Loosli, Nora Renaud, Vera Trachsel

Vernissage: Friday 16 April 2021, 18-21.00

Days and opening hours to visit the exhibition:

Saturday 17 April, 12-16.00

Sunday 18 April, 12-16.00

Thursday 22 April, 15-19.00

Friday 23 April, 15-19.00

Saturday 24 April, 12-16.00

Sunday 25 April, 12-16.00

"Words have meanings: some words, however, also have a 'feel'. The word 'community' is one of them" – Zygmunt Baumann, *Community* (2000)

In the essay *Community* (2000) Zygmunt Bauman explores the notion of 'community' as a place that we vehemently desire. For him, the word has a feel; a feel that could be perceived as the wish to create bonds with others, to welcome and be welcomed, to offer a space for conversation and to be heard.

After the launch of KRONE COURONNE's first installation with Laurent Güdel, we are pleased to welcome BIENNOPHONE, a collective exhibition that engages with community and togetherness, in the name of the city that opened its doors to the new space's initiative.

For eight weeks, the eight invited artists of BIENNOPHONE are occupying the spaces of KRONE COURONNE one week after the other, leaving behind existing, in process or newly produced works. Conceived as an evolutive and accumulative project, the exhibition will culminate in its full form in April 2021.

In this exhibition the voice is given to the artists of the city of Biel/Bienne, whether born and raised, *de passage* or new to the city.. The title of the exhibition takes after a historic Swiss radio manufacturing brand, the Biennophone, which was first produced in Biel/Bienne in 1925, at that time still in the form of a gramophone. Despite its disappearance from the Swiss market in 1988, the heritage that the Biennophone has become an important heritage and here takes the form of a metaphor of the collective voice.

The Biennophone sounds, resonates, crackles, informs and distorts. Like a megaphone, this exhibition projects the voice of the Biel/Bienne artists to the outside.

Vitrine Residencies

- (1) 26.02. – 06.03.2021 Mirja Curtius
- (2) 07.03. – 13.03.2021 Nora Renaud
- (3) 14.03. – 20.03.2021 Marcel Freymond
- (4) 21.03. – 27.30.2021 Jeanne Jacob
- (5) 28.03. – 03.04.2021 Raphael Hefti
- (6) 04.04. – 10.4.2021 Vera Trachsel
- (7) 11.04. – 17.04.2021 Raphael Loosli
- (28) 18.04. – 25.04.2021 Florence Jung

Mirja Curtius (1996, Scuol) lives and works in Biel/Bienne.

Marcel Freymond (1983, Biel/Bienne) lives and works in Basel.

Raphael Hefti (1978, Boudevilliers, grew up in Biel/Bienne) works in Zurich.

Jeanne Jacob (1994, Neuchâtel) lives and works in Biel/Bienne. Florence

Raphael Loosli (1980, Langenthal) lives and works in Biel/Bienne.

Nora Renaud (1977, Geneva) lives and works in Biel/Bienne.

Vera Trachsel (1988, Lugano) lives and works in Biel/Bienne.

About us

Known for many years as the Alte Krone/Ancienne Couronne, KRONE COURONNE is a new space for contemporary art in Biel/Bienne. We are located where Switzerland's French and German regions meet and is dedicated to supporting the local art scene while nurturing critical dialogue between artists and cultural practitioners from all corners of the country – and beyond.

KRONE COURONNE is a space for collaboration. We provide a platform to reflect upon and react to pressing social issues in a public forum. We cultivate compelling encounters and foster cultural exchange. We stand for openness and transparency.

History

For more than thirty years, the space of the Alte Krone/Ancienne Couronne in the old town of Biel/Bienne has been available to local artists for various projects. These exhibition spaces belong to the Department of Culture of the City of Biel/Bienne, which has made it available to professional and amateur artists on request. The exhibition rooms are located on the ground floor of the building, which used to serve as an inn and restaurant.

At the end of 2020, these exhibition rooms, which have not been touched since the 1990s, were renovated and transformed into a centre for contemporary art. Because of the need for a space that supports contemporary art and discourse at the intersection of the Pasquart Centre and independent spaces such as Lokal-int and Espace Libre, this restructuring represents a fundamental step for the cultural and artistic development of the city.

Launch campaign

For the launch campaign of the space, a series of 20 posters saying "Hi, we are new in Biel" were displayed in the city of Biel/Bienne in January and February 2021. These posters feature the 20 most spoken languages in the city, except French and German. The aim is to create a direct engagement, without targeting the obvious art audience, but rather to make the message as open as possible towards cultural diversity and accessibility.

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